

# Children's Newspaper

Every Tuesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## ON THE TRAIL IN MOLOKAI

### A Pilgrimage in Father Damien's Land

ON America's Thanksgiving Day, November 25, a party will ride on a rough trail on Molokai, the Hawaiian Island linked with the immortal name of Father Damien. Led by a woman pastor, Alice Kahokuoluna, the riders will follow the 80-year-old pathway worn by the lepers, and come to the Church of the Healing Spring for a remembrance service.

### Treasure From the "Graveyard of Ships"

WHILE wandering along the beach near Mantoloking in New Jersey, U.S.A., a little while ago, some visitors from Philadelphia discovered 93 guinea and half-guinea pieces in the sands.

Ten minutes later they were delighted to find some ancient jewellery. They reported their finds and were told that the treasure was from a frigate which went ashore there long ago.

News of the discoveries spread quickly, and many amateur treasure-seekers flocked to the area, for it is known that the 42-mile expanse of beach from Mantoloking south to Beach Haven Inlet was once known as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic."

Old records show that between 1320 and 1875 no fewer than 205 vessels were wrecked along these shores; and that others were wrecked there as far back as 1761.

So the treasure-seekers of 1949 are pacing the beaches after stormy weather looking hopefully for more gold coins.

### Well, Well!

AT Sydney, a cat was heard miaowing at the bottom of a well 50 feet deep. It was rescued when it clambered into a basket which had been lowered with a tempting saucer of milk.

AT Tattingstone, Suffolk, a cat was trapped at the bottom of a well 45 feet deep. It rescued itself when ladders were lowered, leaping up rung by rung.

### CURE FOR A COUGH

OUT in the Solomon Islands there are 24 children who will never forget the time when they had whooping cough. For, alarmed by the increase of this epidemic, the Colony's Medical Department decided to experiment with altitude therapy.

Accordingly, the 24 excited young Solomon Islanders were taken up in an aeroplane which cruised at 10,000 feet for an hour.

For many of the children the treatment was successful. In six cases the whooping spasms ceased completely, and in eight others the patients showed considerable improvement.

Behind this pilgrimage lies a fascinating story of quiet heroism. It began in 1866 when King Kamehameha V of Hawaii grew concerned at the unchecked growth of leprosy in his beautiful islands. The only method of treatment was segregation, and in Hawaii this meant exile to a remote island.

The spot chosen was a little peninsula midway on the northern shore of Molokai, below the gaunt cliffs of the extinct volcano of Kauhako—walled in by mountains, and faced by the limitless expanse of the Pacific. And to Molokai in January 1866 came those Hawaiians suffering from what in their native tongue was called The Disease-that-tears-families-apart.

### Food From the Sea

Food came to the little settlement by a Government vessel which crept as near as tide and currents would permit, and then launched its barrels of salt beef overboard for those lepers who were strong enough to guide them to the shore.

Thirty-five of the exiles were members of Congregational churches in Hawaii, and their first desire in their new home was for a church in which to worship. They met on the veranda of one of the rough houses and made their first collection of four dollars towards the building.

The wood was floated in by a passing ship, and the exiles, in spite of fatigue, built their own church. It had a tall spire, painted white, and seated a hundred people, and they had paid for it out of their 25 cents a week allowed them by the Hawaiian Government to buy extra comforts at the village store.

### The First Church

In October 1871, two years before Father Damien landed, the first leper church on Molokai was dedicated; and 24 names of the founder members were written in the minute book. Bearing the name Siloama—the church of the healing spring—it quickly became the centre of the settlement's life.

With no proper homes, no hospital care, and a poor water supply, the seven hundred patients often harboured bitter resentment. They were even hostile to Father Damien. Leprosy, they believed, was a white man's disease and was carried by white men as they travelled about. But the Siloama Church members welcomed the Roman Catholic priest, and their pastor

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## OFF WITH THE OLD COAT



Sea Scouts preparing one of the masts of Captain Scott's Discovery for a coat of paint.

## Has the Moon an Atmosphere?

IT has generally been assumed that the Moon has no atmosphere. For when a star is approaching the dark limb of the Moon it is suddenly extinguished, there being no dimming or aberration of the star such as should occur if the Moon had an atmosphere.

Recent study of the behaviour of meteors on encountering the Moon, however, has thrown new light on the subject. Dr E. M. Lindsay, Director of Armagh Observatory, has carried out an investigation which seems to show that the Moon has an atmosphere, though it is extremely thin.

### Moving Flash

The Moon, like the Earth, is continually sweeping up meteors in its journey round the Sun. It is indeed possible to see some of these meteors striking the Moon. Especially is this the case at times of lunar eclipse, for then the conditions are most suitable. On the Earth, of course, the meteors are burnt up by our atmosphere. On the Moon, however, it was thought that all that could be seen would be a stationary flash, a point source of light as the meteor struck.

Instead, a moving flash is seen, indicating that the meteor becomes heated by friction with an atmosphere. The density of atmosphere near the Moon's surface, it is believed, corresponds to the density in our own atmosphere about 60 miles up, where the meteor trails begin.

## THEY TALKED THEMSELVES OUT

AT the Lauderdale ex-Service-men's reunion, held recently at Lauderdale, in the Scottish Borders, Major Sam Macdonald described how he and two companions escaped from their German captors and were supplied with civilian suits by a French boy. Again recaptured, they managed to bamboozle the Germans by speaking Gaelic. Official interpreters could make nothing of the language, so it was decided they must be Russian, and they were immediately freed, Russia not having then entered the war.

On another occasion they were brought up before a pro-German French mayor and asked to reveal their identity. Major Macdonald replied gravely that they were three Irish-Americans hailing from Achannahannon, in Ireland.

"We've never heard of such a place before," said his companions when they were safely on their way again. "Neither had I," said the major calmly, "and I don't think the mayor had either."

### TEA-TOTAL

IN Britain, 6,182,000 lbs more tea was drunk during the first eight months of 1949 than in the first eight months of 1948.



## SHARE & SHARE ALIKE

AMONG the various steps taken to unify Europe at the recent Paris meeting of the Western Union, perhaps the most important to ordinary men, women, and children were the agreements on the exchange of social security benefits between Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg.

To understand their significance we must realise that in this part of the world we have become accustomed to certain things: good and varied food, proper clothing, care when we are sick or disabled, and so on, all of which we consider essential for our well-being. A Briton, a Frenchman, or a Dutchman have, a very similar standard of living.

The second important fact is

that for the past thirty years or so, but especially since the end of the Second World War, Governments in Western Europe have been making great efforts to establish a system of better social insurance. In this country laws have been passed establishing family allowances, and national health services, and making various additions to the old-age and public assistance Acts.

Our neighbours across the Channel, too, have made successful efforts in this direction. France today has a system of family allowances, a health service, and a system of old-age pensions equal in every respect to ours. The Dutch are perhaps less fortunate in having a smaller social services programme than we have. They have no family allowances and their health service is restricted to those below a certain income. But unemployment and old-age benefits are almost the same as our own.

### Mutual Help

In Belgium, the health service is restricted to employees and their families and, generally speaking, the wide range of benefits obtainable in Britain or France is not to be found. So Western Europe already enjoys on the whole a similar system of social services, and the existence of the agreement should encourage those who signed it to develop their services.

When these social services conventions are in force it will mean that a Briton who, for instance, has the misfortune of falling ill somewhere in France, will be able to call a doctor or go to hospital without paying anything. A Frenchman or Belgian will be able to live in Britain or Holland and to receive his old-age pension just as if he had stayed at home.

The actual signing of the agreements by the Foreign Ministers, however, is not enough; their successful working must depend upon the individual members of each country.

### Feeling at Home

By adopting an unselfish attitude towards those foreigners who benefit from their respective social services the individual member of each nation will be helping to create that sense of common citizenship—that sense of “feeling at home”—which is essential to real unity in Western Europe.

Many readers of the CN will recall in this connection a famous remark by Mr Bevin a year or two ago. The Foreign Secretary declared that his idea of European unity was simple—to go to Victoria Station, buy a ticket, and go wherever he wanted without let or hindrance.

The new international agreements, though they have little to do with passports, will, in fact, help in making it possible for members in the group to travel and live anywhere in Western Europe. They will help in creating an atmosphere of European unity. They will encourage new links of friendship, and help to sweep away the barriers which stand in the path of real unity.

## Thrift on the Footplate

A LOCOMOTIVE'S diet of coal is carefully measured these days, and, in order to find out how much coal different types of engine use for the same job, a coal-weighing apparatus has been attached to nine locomotive tenders of British Railways.

This apparatus consists of a separate bunker which fits inside the tender and is locked on brackets when the engine is moving. When the coal is to be weighed the locks are released and the load of coal is levered to a steelyard on which it is measured with the usual sliding weights.

These tenders can be attached to different locomotives, and an inspector travels with them to record the consumption of coal in detail.

By means of this coal-weighing apparatus the qualities of different grades of coal can be tested, and also the amount of coal consumed in starting the fire in an engine's fire-box, in shunting, shed duties, or when the train is standing with steam up at signals or in a station.

### CALICO JUBILEE

CALICO printing since 1785 is being shown at an exhibition in Manchester in honour of the jubilee of the Calico Printers' Association. The exhibition, which remains open at the Association's showrooms until December 3, is a panorama of this Lancashire textile industry. The Association's records show that 20,000 million yards of cloth have gone through the machines since 1899.

Calico printing shows clearly the way in which design must meet changing tastes. For instance, 50 years ago the important African market took many articles incorporating a leopard hunt design. Now, even in jungle areas, a popular design includes a football.

### A London Garden

EACH of thirteen young Londoners has just planted twelve tulip bulbs in a garden at Great Sutton Street in Clerkenwell. The bulbs were given by the London Children's Garden Fund, and the garden which contains the children's little plot is rented from Charterhouse for one shilling a year. The children work under the supervision of an 82-year-old gardener, and they grow vegetables as well as flowers.

The tulip flowers will be judged next spring, when the winner will receive six scarlet geraniums to brighten his or her plot.

### BOY CONDUCTOR

ROBERTO BENZI, aged ten, has been conducting the Philharmonia Orchestra of 77 players at the Royal Albert Hall, London. He is an Italian boy born in France and speaking French.

He says the orchestra is “magnifique,” but during rehearsals he insisted on the musicians playing a piece exactly as he wanted it. The leader of the orchestra, Mr Manoug Parikian, says that Roberto loves music, and knows all the instruments. At rehearsals he would never miss a false note, making the players stop and repeat the passage.

## NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

### POLLS DOWN UNDER

New Zealanders will elect a new parliament on November 30, and Australia on December 10.

A children's church has been formed by the vicar of a church at Muswell Hill, London. The children run everything themselves and meet every Sunday for a short service.

Over £200,000 was taken on Southend Pier this summer, and over 4½ million people took a trip on its electric railway.

The Boys' Brigade Diploma for Gallant Conduct has been awarded to Private Ernest Firth and Private Leslie Jones, both 13, of the 6th Leeds Company, for going to the rescue of a girl in danger of drowning at Gorleston-on-Sea in Norfolk.

### Going . . . Gong!

Liverpool City Council have approved a proposal of the Watch Committee that 43 gongs should be purchased for police cars, the police having decided that the safest way to stop motorists who offend is to gong them.

The 27 million pounds of rayon produced in Britain during September was a record.



Snap the sea-lion climbs over the fence of his enclosure to receive a fish from his keeper at Whipsnade Zoo.

At a cost of £400,000 the accommodation of Crosby Hall, London, an international residence for university women, is to be doubled, a library and additional common-rooms are to be built, and Fellowships are to be endowed. Since it was reopened in 1946 more than 3000 women from 45 different countries have stayed there.

A new bottle-green walking-out uniform has been designed for the Women's Royal Army Corps.

A hundred Dutch ex-service-men, demobilised in the Netherlands East Indies, are going to work on farms in New Zealand because Holland already has more farmers than she needs.

### ORCHID CHAMPION

An Australian has won the first prize at an international orchid exhibition held at Washington.

Flocks of emus in search of food are causing much damage to wheat crops in south-eastern Australia, and farmers are powerless to shoot them because it is against the law.

The British motor industry's output and export figures for September were the highest since the war.

Mr O'Dwyer, of the Democrat Party, has been re-elected Mayor of New York. In an election for membership of the City Council a Negro, Mr Earl Brown, defeated another Negro who was a Communist leader.

### Inedible?

Six tons of old documents, among them records of local history of Tudor times, have been found in a pigsty at Doncaster.

The King will broadcast to the nation at three o'clock on Christmas Day.

Dr Roger Manvell, Director of the British Film Academy, has been to France lecturing on British Films. His lectures were given in French and illustrated by extracts from Hamlet, The Red Shoes, Scott of the Antarctic, The Overlanders, Men of Two Worlds, and other films.

The Australian Red Cross Society has sent more than a million pounds' worth of food and clothing to Britain during the last two years.

The U.N. Children's Fund has given £35,000 to Malta to build a milk pasteurisation plant.

### LOW DIVING

Smugglers have resorted to the use of diving suits along the Anzio coast of Italy.

In an effort to make the 999 emergency call easier in the dark, the Post Office is experimenting with luminous paint on telephone dials.

An aircraft hangar at Stoke Orchard, Gloucestershire, is to become a National Coal Board research station.

A statue of the first Earl of Oxford and Asquith is to be placed in the new House of Commons. The statue, begun by Leonard S. Merriman, was completed by Gilbert Bayes.

The first cuckoo clock ever made entirely in Britain was presented to Prince Charles on his first birthday.

Wolf Cub Colin Myers, aged 9, of the 5th SE Leeds Wolf Cub Pack, has won the Cornwall Certificate for his cheerful courage during the weeks of intense pain after fracturing an elbow.

### Busy Australia

There is almost no unemployment in Australia. On October 15 there were only 873 people receiving unemployment benefit. On the other hand there were about 93,000 jobs vacant.

Eire is to send about a million turkeys to Britain this Christmas. Prices will be about 15 per cent higher than last year.

Meat rationing has ceased in Denmark and chocolate is to be de-rationed on January 1.

A ten-year-old angler of Gorleston, Norfolk, Brian Scruby, beat 198 of the 200 competitors in the recent Great Yarmouth sea-angling championship.

The only man in the Women's Voluntary Service, it is claimed, is Mr Harold Hildreth, aged 72, of Hooe, Sussex, a former quartermaster-sergeant of the Home Guard. He wears the WVS badge and armband and has distributed hundreds of gift parcels from Australia.

### COMET SPEED

In the course of a 2500-mile tour of Britain which occupied 5½ hours, the Comet airliner flew from Shetland to Hatfield, 590 miles, in sixty minutes.

King Gustav of Sweden's 91st birthday dinner was attended by his two brothers, aged 90 and 88.

## Christmas is Coming

HERE is an idea for a Christmas present that lasts throughout the year, a constant reminder of the sender.

FOR 17s 4d Children's Newspaper will be sent to any address in the world each week for a whole year. Please send your remittance, together with the full name and address of the friend to whom the CN is to be sent, to Subscription Department, Children's Newspaper, The Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, EC4, and we will do the rest.

IF desired, a special greetings card bearing your own name and address will be sent with the first copy.

## IN MOLOKAI

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went through the settlement urging the people to accept him as a friend.

When the leper settlement was moved two miles away across the peninsula the little church fell into neglect. The tangle of long grass covered the gravestones of the leper pioneers, and a forlorn look spread across the once well-kept church.

Exploring one day in 1938 in a passageway underneath the church, the Revd Alice Kahokuoluna found a large ledger which proved to be the minute book of the church and told the heroic story of its foundation. This inspired her to set about the restoration of Siloama, and today the church has a new roof and gleams in a new coat of white paint.

Across the windy trail on Thanksgiving Day a large company of leper patients and their friends will make a pilgrimage to celebrate the quiet heroism of those early pioneers who built a House of God in their land of compulsory exile.

### A PILOT & HIS PET

A MEMORIAL window showing an airman in full flying kit with a dog standing by his side, has been unveiled in the little Lincolnshire church of Ropsley.

It commemorates 22-year-old Sergeant-Pilot William Philip Dales, whose home was at Little Humby, near Grantham; and the dog pictured is the pilot's own pet, Patch, who always ran outside when he heard a Spitfire.

Patch still runs out whenever an aeroplane passes, although it is eight years since his master failed to return from an operational flight over Ostend.



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## Bepo, Gleep—and now Aspatron

Bepo and Gleep, the two big atomic piles at Harwell research station, now have a little brother whose name is Aspatron, and whose job is to produce short-lived radio-active isotopes for use in medical and industrial research.

The Aspatron is a small mobile atomic pile invented by Mr Robert Barker of the ASP Chemical Company's laboratories. It was recently shown to a party of scientists.

In appearance, it is a metal tub about two feet high and two feet in diameter. It is made of copper and has a water jacket inside it about two inches wide.

Trays are placed one on top of another in this container, and these trays hold "sandwiches" of paraffin wax and uranium oxide. Inserted in a hole down the middle of the sandwiches is a boron-steel rod.

So far, it sounds simple enough, but the explanation of how it works takes us into a scientific fairyland where certain elements undergo a process called photo-disintegration after responding to gamma bombardment; a wonderland where, unless we are well up in physics, we should be as lost as Alice was when she stepped through the looking-glass.

## Without Breaking the Ice

THOSE members of the Highgate Diving Club who do not appreciate a cold dip in their swimming pool during the winter can now practise their spring-board diving without entering the water! They have brought a trampoline.

CN readers may have seen acrobats using a trampoline at the circus or on the stage. It is a sort of spring mattress about ten feet long placed on supports some two feet above the ground. The trampoline, which can take up to 750 pounds strain, will be used by the divers practising body control in mid-air.

## Worthy Memorial

FROM the remote British Colony of Fiji comes news that the island's War Memorial is to take the form of a campaign against tuberculosis.

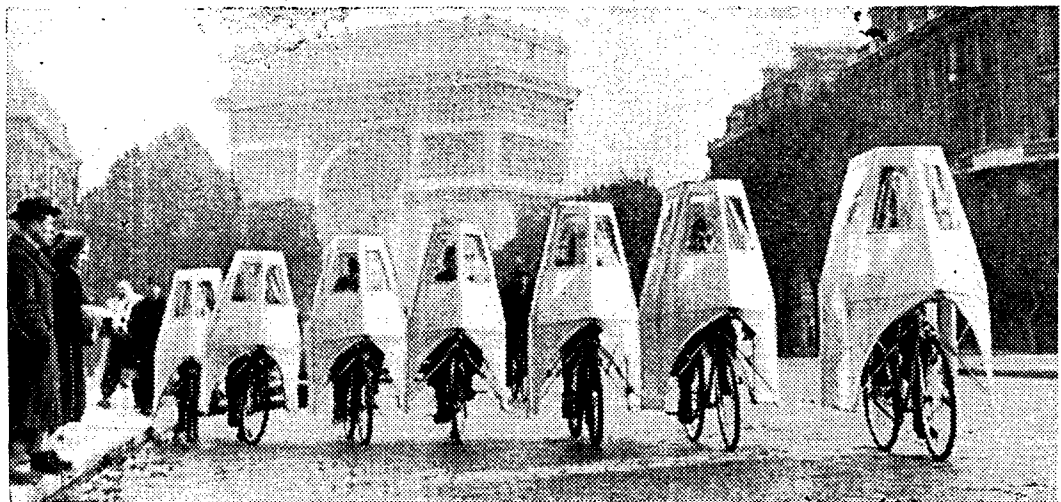
Already over £40,000 has been subscribed toward the cost of the Memorial.

## Saint of Music Lovers

IN recent years there has been a movement among music-lovers to revive the observation of St Cecilia's Day with church services and concerts, for she is the patron saint of music. This year St Cecilia's Day, November 22, is being celebrated by services and concerts in cathedrals and churches throughout the country.

In London there will be a morning service at St Sepulchre's Church, Holborn, for which a special anthem has been written by Herbert Howells; and in the evening there will be a special concert of English music at the Royal Albert Hall.

St Cecilia, an early-Roman Christian, was martyred with her husband, whom she had converted, about the year 250. Her memory has inspired many of the greatest artists. Van Der Goes painted a picture of her playing the organ, and Dryden wrote a famous ode about her which was set to music by Handel.



## Rainproof Covers For French Cyclists

The old problem of providing cyclists with protection from bad weather has been tackled by a French engineer, M. Chazalet. His lightweight canopies, here seen being demonstrated in Paris, look as if they might be effective—except on a windy day.

## YOUNG DEBATERS

A GREAT number of senior schoolboys and girls from all over Britain are to debate world problems during the Christmas holidays. The problems will earlier have been the subject of lectures by distinguished people, including Mr Attlee, Lord Beveridge, and Lord Boyd-Orr.

This annual conference is again being organised by the Council for Education in World Citizenship (CEWC), and will be held from January 3 to 6 in Central Hall, Westminster. At the end of the conference the prizes for the Unesco poster, essay, and scrapbook competitions will be presented by the Minister of Education.

Full details of the Conference can be obtained from CEWC, 11, Maiden Lane, London, WC2.

## Floodlit Rugger

FLOODLIGHTING has been installed on the famous ground of Blackheath Rugby Club, at Rectory Field.

There is no likelihood at present of after-dark rugger games, but since the start of the season many Blackheath players have found it difficult to get any effective field training, so players and officials worked hard to install electric flood-lamps along the front of the grandstand. These will throw bright light over the whole field, thus enabling enthusiasts to train outdoors in mid-week.

This is not the first time that night training has taken place at Rectory Field, for in the past acetylene lamps have been tried, but did not prove satisfactory.

## STAMP NEWS

THE post office has issued two stamps to commemorate international recognition of the Republic. Designed by the Irish painter Mrs Muriel Brandt, they give a view of Leinster House. It is also intended to honour the centenary of the death of the poet, James Mangan.

THE Angolan fishing town of Mossamedes celebrated its centenary recently and the event has been commemorated by a stamp.

A NEW set from Liechtenstein marks the date, 250 years ago, when Johann Adam Andreas purchased the Lordship of Schellenberg, thereby founding the Principality of Liechtenstein.

## Badminton's "Wightman Cup"

SINCE the end of the war badminton has become very popular throughout the world. Last year saw the institution of the Thomas Cup, presented by Sir George Thomas, the greatest of all English players, for competition among international teams. As the Davis Cup is to lawn tennis, so is the Thomas Cup to badminton, and the first contest held in this country proved most successful.

Now there is to be a similar competition for women players—just as there is a Wightman Cup in lawn tennis. This new award is the Uber Trophy, presented to women's badminton by Mrs Uber, the leading English woman player.

Arrangements for this new international competition are not yet complete, and there are many difficulties to be overcome, concerned with finance and travel, but it is hoped that the first Uber Trophy tournament will be staged before the end of the present badminton season.

It is expected that England, South Africa, Canada, America, and Denmark will enter teams.

## Pigskin Pants

A MAN who played soccer when the word itself was hardly known had his 100th birthday not long ago.

He is Mr Price Mostyn of Ruthin, Denbighshire, who started playing football more than 75 years ago, was centre-half for Ruthin Town in 1874, and also played for Wales.

He believes he was the first man to have studs fitted to his football boots. Football shorts were unknown in his young days and players wore pigskin trousers.

## NOT ON THE MAP

THE village of Ae, near Dumfries, officially came into being the other day when Sir Henry Beresford-Peirse, Director of Forestry in Scotland, welcomed the first four families into their new homes.

This new forestry village of Ae is the forerunner of other villages to be established in Scotland as homes for forest workers. Fourteen houses have already been completed out of the 60 that are planned, and provision has been made for shops, playing fields, a church, and a village hall.

## BOOK BORROWING

A REPORT issued by the Library Association shows that last year the average expenditure on books for all our public libraries was 8½d per head of population, or 2s 9d per borrower.

But a great difference was revealed between the amounts spent by different boroughs. Bradford and Sunderland, for instance, spent 1s 4½d per head, whereas some others of the same size spent as little as 6½d; Derby spent 1s 5½d, Gloucester 3½d.

Throughout the country about 25 per cent of the population are registered as borrowers, but in some places as few as 7 per cent use the public library.

## Repairing the Taj Mahal

TUBULAR steel scaffolding from Birmingham arrived recently at Agra for use during repair work to the Taj Mahal.

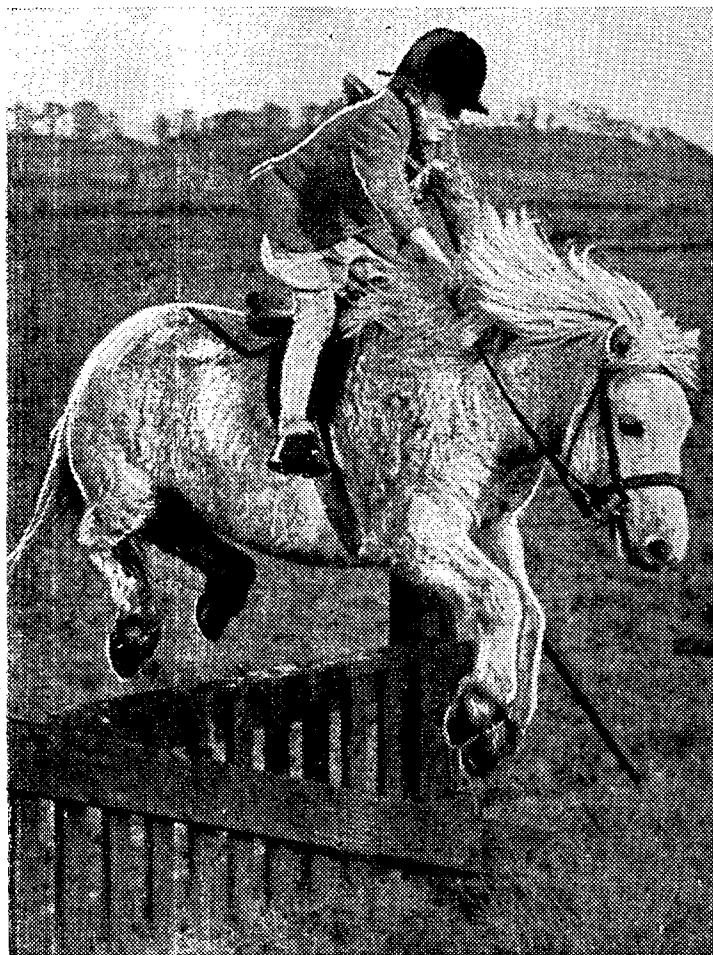
Built of white marble and inlaid with precious stones, this loveliest of all India's buildings was erected by the Mogul Emperor Shah Jehan as a tomb for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, and also for himself. It was begun in 1630 and occupied about 20,000 men some 22 years. It cost £3,000,000.

The Taj Mahal's famous dome, which had been showing signs of decay, is now under repair, and the work will keep the workmen busy until next spring. One task already completed is the replacement of 29 of the 32 pillars which support the pavilions.

## TURKISH TALKIE

ONE way of "translating" a talking film has been successfully tried out in Turkey. When two British Council films were shown there the audience thought that the Englishman in them, Sir Malcolm Sargent and Mr Robert Helpmann, were speaking in Turkish.

The films are called Instruments of the Orchestra, with a commentary by Sir Malcolm Sargent, and Steps of the Ballet, with a commentary by Mr Helpmann. But the English sound tracks of the film were not used in Turkey. Instead, a Turkish commentator, well out of sight of the audience, timed his words in Turkish so perfectly to the actions of the two shown speaking on the screen, that the spectators believed they were actually talking in Turkish.

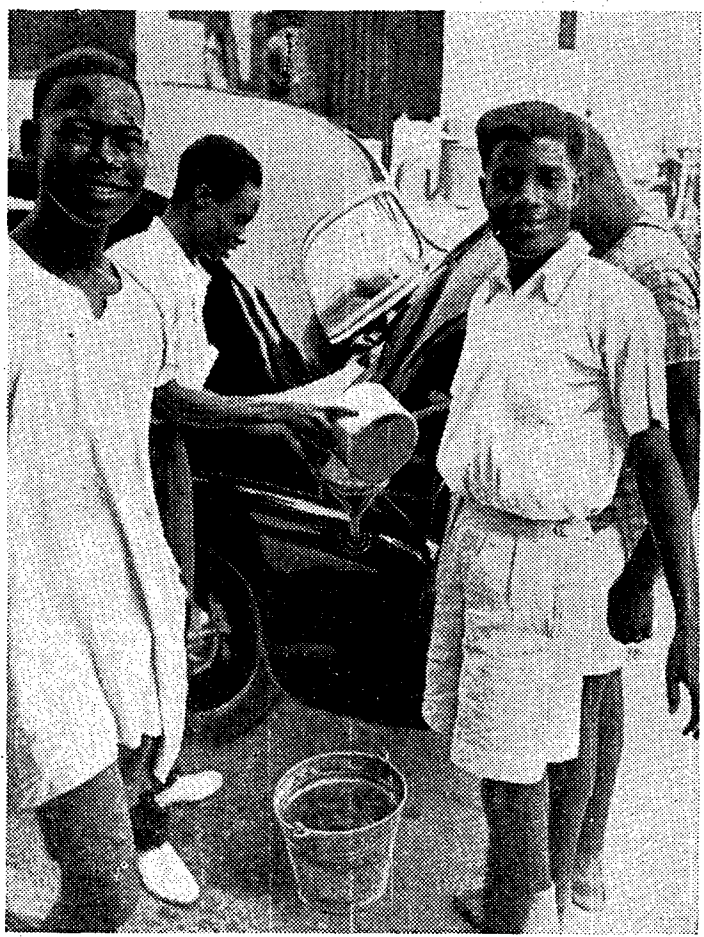


**CLEARED!**

A young rider and her mount, out for a morning canter, clear a jump in fine style.



## BUSY CITIZENS OF THE GOLD COAST



THESE pictures show us something of life on the sunny Gold Coast in West Africa, which is to have a larger measure of self-Government.

The two sturdy citizens in the top picture are carrying ashore goods which have been unloaded into small boats from ships lying farther out to sea, unable to come closer inshore.

The cheery little group in the lower picture are engaged in a somewhat unorthodox method of filling a car's tank.

If these lads can read and write they may become members of the new local councils which will be established if a report on Constitutional Reform in the Gold Coast becomes law. The Report, accepted in principle by the British Government, would give the people virtual Home Rule. There would be a Legislative Assembly, a Senate, and an Executive Council.

## Marble, Muggle, or Muckle?

THE game of marbles might seem the last thing to which a scholar would turn his attention. However, in *The Vocabulary of Marble Games*, published by the Yorkshire Dialect Society, Mr J. L. Bailes of Leeds University has compiled a fascinating account of his researches into this old game of schooldays, including a vocabulary of over 200 words.

The first recorded mention of the word "marble" itself occurs in 1694, and this altered according to the different dialect districts, becoming "marp" in Lancashire, "muggle" in Durham, and "muckle" in Aberdeen.

In the past there were many different ways of playing marbles, again varying from district to district, but today there are four main codes. The most popular probably is the ring game in which the order of play is deter-

mined by the time-honoured call: "Foggy! Seggy! Thirdy! Laggy!" He who is quickest to cry "Foggy!" is given the first shot, and so on.

Next there is the game known as knuck pits, which has some resemblance to the game of golf; the third is generally called the line game; and lastly there is langy-spangy, the game of hundreds.

The marbles themselves have each distinctive names according to their type, and often they derive their names from the substance that has gone to their making. The popular "clayer" is composed, as one may guess, of clay, and the "ally" of alabaster. More grandiose in appearance and sound is the "barrie," the glass marble decorated with coloured bars. Other popular varieties are the "gull," the "knuck," and the "chuck."

## A NEW STAR IN THE SWAN

THE grand constellation of Cygnus, the Swan, is now high in the north-west sky in the evening, and not far from overhead, writes the C N Astronomer.

Its chief stars appear to be arranged in the form of a Latin Cross, so the constellation is popularly known as the "Northern Cross." It has, however, been the celestial Swan for more than three thousand years, and is associated with many legends.

The bird has always been represented as in flight, its long neck stretching out south-westward near Gamma to the double-star Beta. Alpha, or Arided, is in the breast of the Swan, and the stars Delta and Epsilon are in its extended wings. But Cygnus is much more extensive than the area of the cross, for a large number of less brilliant stars round about represent the feathers of the Swan's outspread tail and wings.

At present Cygnus is receiving renewed telescopic attention owing to the discovery of another Nova, or so-called "new" star, in the position indicated in the star-map. It is therefore within that radiant belt of the Milky Way, the Galactic Ring of thousands of millions of suns, which appears to encircle the Heavens with light.

The celestial cross is entirely

ERIC GILLET, OUR FILM CRITIC, SAYS THAT "THE SEARCH" IS . . .

## A Picture For Intelligent People

THE SEARCH is a film not to be missed by intelligent people in their teens. Made by a Swiss company, under the direction of Fred Zinnemann, it is a worthy successor to *The Last Chance*, made by the same people a few years ago. It is, in the best sense of the word, an international picture. The director is American, so are several of the actors, including Montgomery Clift, Aline MacMahon, and Wendell Corey. There are also British, Czech, and Polish actors. Parts of the film were photographed in the U.S.-occupied zone of Germany.

The story is simple and moving. Karel Malik (Ivan Jandl) is a small Czech boy whose father and sister have been killed by the Germans and whose mother has been separated from him at the beginning of the war. He has been sent from one concentration camp to another until the life has almost been bullied out of him, and he only replies in German to any question put to him, "I don't know."

When Karel and another boy come under the care of Unrra, with the British and Americans doing all they can to help homeless and destitute people in Europe, the two are so frightened that they cannot run away, and Karel's friend is drowned. Karel hides among the ruins near the river until hunger drives him out and he accepts food from a kindly American soldier, Ralph Stevenson (Montgomery Clift). "Steve" has to put out food for the boy as though he were a frightened bird or animal before he can persuade him to take it. At last, after a struggle, Karel accompanies Steve to his billet.

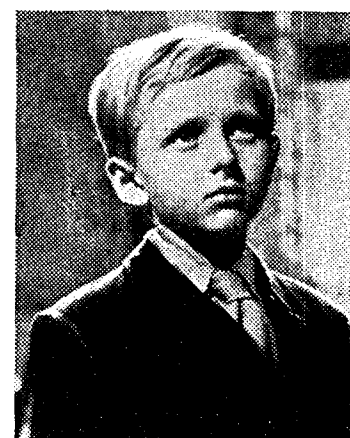
In the weeks that follow Steve teaches Karel English and soon becomes so fond of this odd little scrap that he tries to find out if

the boy's parents are alive, because he wants to have Karel sent to America if they are not.

The climax is beautifully done and must not be revealed here. There is no doubt at all that *The Search* is one of the most important and thought-provoking films of the year, as it is one of the most interesting and gripping. The director has taken a great theme—the experiences of the homeless people and especially of the homeless children of Europe—and he has risen to the occasion worthily. So has the cast.

It is, perhaps, worth noting that the only Englishman is portrayed as a rather stupid fellow. Aline MacMahon and Montgomery Clift are both excellent in the principal American parts, and Jarmilla Novotna and Ivan Jandl could not be bettered as the Czech mother and her son.

Possibly coincidence is allowed



Ivan Jandl in *The Search*

to play too large a part in *The Search*. It does not seem to me to matter much. We have all known coincidences in our lives.

enveloped in this light, which can be seen on any dark starlit night to extend along its whole length. The Nova, which appears to be among this grand assemblage, is very faint owing to its great distance, and is imperceptible without a powerful telescope.

Alpha in Cygnus, also known by its Arabic name of Arided and sometimes as Deneb, is a colossal, super-heated sun very much larger and brighter than Vega, which can be seen to the right. Actually, Arided is some 200 times brighter than Vega and radiates about 10,000 times more

azure in tint. They can be seen as separate stars even through a small astronomical telescope. The azure one is about 350 light-years' distant from us, but the other, a giant sun, is distant about 1000 light-years' journey.

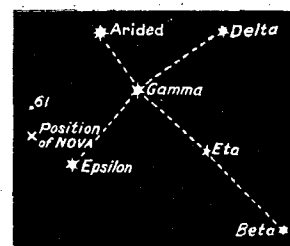
Gamma is another giant, radiating about 1600 times more light than our Sun but from a distance 25,632,000 times farther away, its light taking about 405 years to reach us. Epsilon's light takes only 78 years to reach us, and this sun radiates only about 40 times more light than our Sun.

Delta is about 86 light-years' distant, and has a smaller planetary sun revolving round it at a distance much greater than Neptune is from our Sun, and taking 321 years to make a revolution.

THE early-morning sky is most interesting just now because of the very close approach of Mars to Saturn, as seen from the Earth.

They are very high up in the south between 5 and 6 a.m. and may be easily identified through appearing so near together and almost in line with Regulus, which is to the right of Mars.

By December 1, when at their nearest together, they will appear only one-third of the Moon's apparent width apart. G. F. M.



light and heat than our Sun; but it is about 41,200,000 times farther away and its light takes 651 years to reach us, whereas it takes only 27 years to come from Vega.

Beta in Cygnus, also known as Albireo, is composed of two stars, the larger orange and the other



# Watching the Birds That Call at Lonely Fair Isle

Every keen bird-watcher will be eager to visit Fair Isle, the solitary treeless island halfway between the Orkneys and the Shetlands on which Mr George Waterston last year set up a Bird Observatory under a Trust. Mr Kenneth Williamson, the Director of this Trust, has sent the CN the following story of this year's work among the island's bird visitors.

**F**AIR ISLE Bird Observatory, which was established last autumn, has just concluded its first full season's work. It has been in every way a successful year, with well over a hundred amateur bird-watchers staying at the hostel for a week or more and co-operating with the Director in the scientific investigations of the station. These investigations include the keeping of detailed notes on the kinds and numbers of birds which alight for a brief halt on their journeys between their breeding and wintering grounds, and the careful examination and marking of all such migrants as can be caught in the wire-netting Heligoland traps, of which there are now four in operation.

In this first full season over 1500 birds of 63 different species have been trapped, examined, and released bearing a numbered aluminium ring. These tiny rings give the address of the British Museum (Natural History), London, in the hope that anyone who may find such a ring on a dead or injured bird will inform the British Museum, and so assist in throwing light on many of the problems of migration.

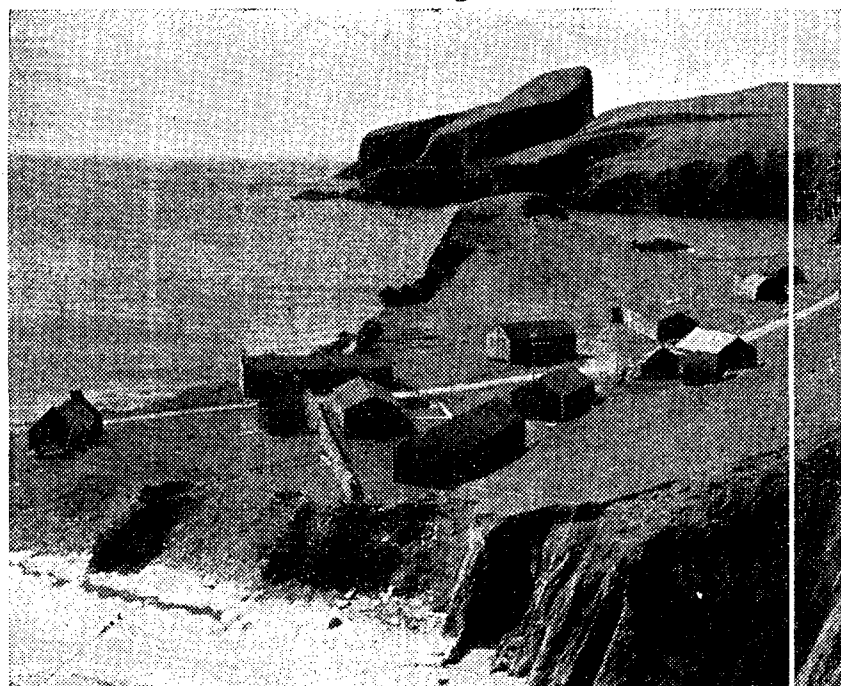
**N**EARLY 200 Starlings, 177 Wheatears, 130 Blackbirds and Rock Pipits, 112 Meadow Pipits and Twites form the bulk of the birds ringed, and in addition there have been a number of species which are rarely trapped as migrants, such as Redwing (over 50), White Wagtail (27), Goldcrest (26), Blackcap

(17), Fieldfare, Pied Flycatcher, Sedge Warbler, and Water Rail.

Ever since the first observations were made there by the late Dr Eagle Clark and Duchess of Bedford in 1903 Fair Isle has been famous for the rare birds, mostly of Asiatic origin, which appear there in migration time. At the beginning of this year the island already had an imposing list of over 300 birds—more than half the total number recorded for Britain—and no fewer than six rare species have since been added to this list.

Two birds new to Scotland—a Black-browed Albatross (whose home is in the southern oceans) and a Kentish Plover—appeared one day, May 14. A Nightingale (the fourth recorded in Scotland) and the rare eastern Greenish Warbler (which had been seen

only twice before in Britain) were trapped and ringed on May 23 and June 2 respectively. Three Dotterel, doubtless moving southwards from the fells of Norway, were seen on September 22; a male Spotted Crake was caught and ringed on August 9, and a Pallas's Grasshopper-warbler, an Asiatic bird, was studied by half a dozen keen ornithologists early in October. The only recorded visit of this bird to the British Isles was as long ago as 1908.



The observatory buildings on Fair Isle



Watching the birds through powerful glasses

**F**ASCINATING though it is, the recording of such rarities, for the most part birds that have overshot their normal breeding-range in spring (like the Nightingale and Kentish Plover), or wanderers hopelessly astray from their route, is only a minor part of the work of this new observatory.

More essential to the study of migration as a whole is the recording of the daily weather and its effects on the numbers and movements of the commoner birds. This cannot be completed satisfactorily until the winter, when, at the Trust's headquarters, 17 India Street, Edinburgh, weather charts covering the whole European area are consulted, and the data in the Fair Isle "Migration Schedule" interpreted in the light of weather conditions.

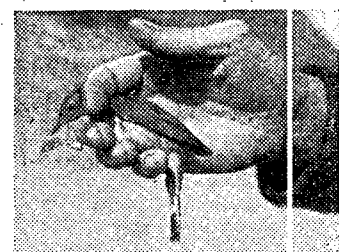
**T**HE recent autumn migration was an excellent one from the bird-watcher's point of view, owing to the prevalence of easterly winds. The trend of migration through western Europe is generally southward, but east and south-east winds drift the migrants across the North Sea to our shores.

This explains why at Fair Isle the rare Yellow-browed Warbler, whose range extends right across northern Asia, and which migrates to Indo-China and Siam, was tolerably common in mid-September and again present in mid-October. The Red-breasted Flycatcher is a central European species (although extending as far west as Denmark); two were caught and ringed on Fair Isle, and others seen, in mid-September. On September 13 and

24 we trapped and ringed three Siberian Lesser Whitethroats.

At the time the Pallas's Grasshopper-warbler was present, following three days of easterly weather, the commonest small warblers on the island were Siberian and Scandinavian Chiffchaffs. The Siberian bird, a duller edition of our own Chiffchaff, extends eastwards across Asia from the Petchora River, and (like the Pallas Grasshopper warbler) it normally winters in India.

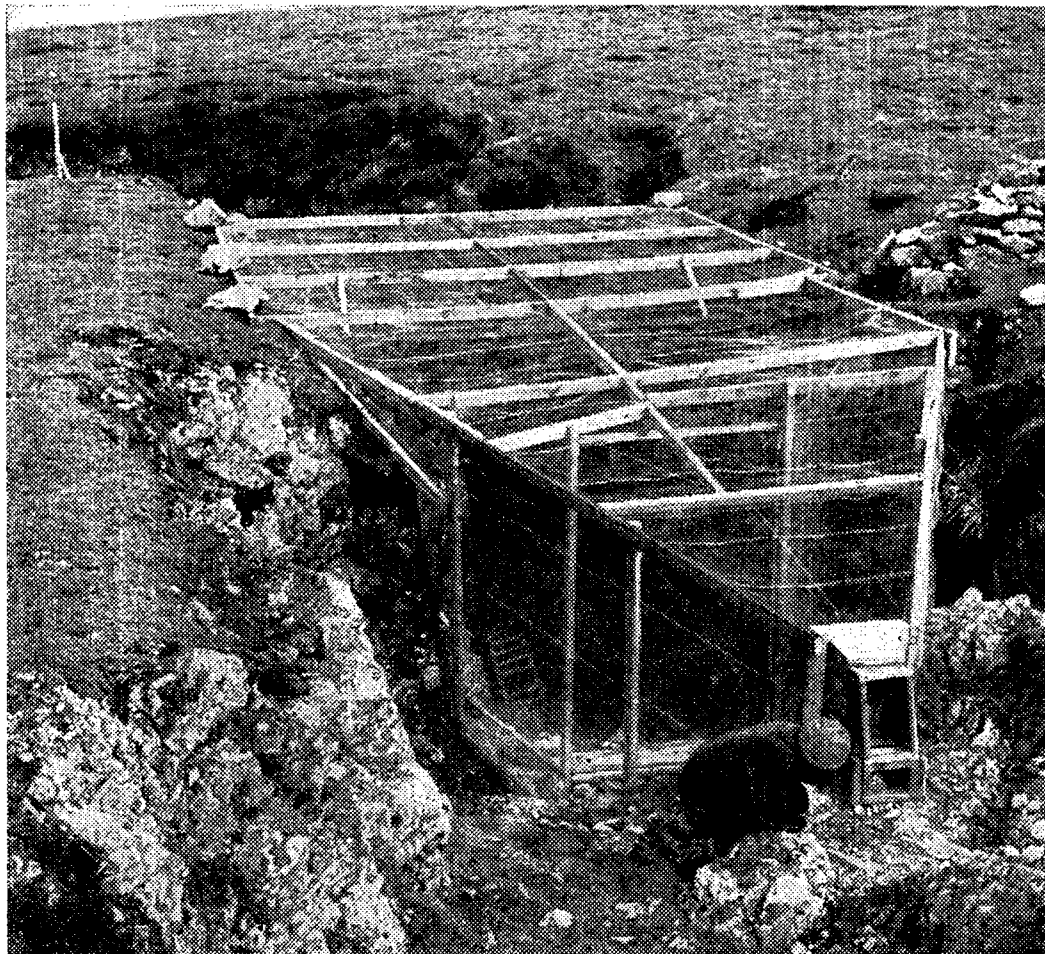
**A** STRIKING feature of the autumn has been the invasion, for the first time since 1935, of large numbers of Northern Pied Woodpeckers from the



A stray nightingale with its identification ring

pine forests of Scandinavia. By far the greater number had the scarlet crowns of juvenile birds. They have been watched in all sorts of curious situations, hammering at telegraph-poles and fencing-posts, feeding on the great western cliffs of the island, rummaging in the rubbish-heaps, and—latterly—feeding ravenously at the corn-stocks in the stack-yards.

Most of the winter visitors to Britain began to pass through Fair Isle, this autumn well in advance of their last year's dates. This year the first flocks of Redwings, from Scandinavia, arrived on September 22, and the tiny Goldcrests moved through steadily with each easterly blow after the middle of that month. That these tiny mites, which tip the laboratory scales at 5 grammes, should manage to survive a night's North Sea crossing in a south-easterly gale is surely one of the outstanding wonders of bird migration.



This home-made trap was the most successful. It is at the end of a gully where migratory birds come in to rest and drink. Here a watcher is seen taking out the bird shown in the close-up on the right





### Quads at the Gate

The Good Quads—Elizabeth, Jennifer, Bridget, and Frances—are 17 months old, and are just beginning to wonder what's going on in the great big world beyond the gate of their home at Westerleigh, Gloucestershire.

## Stone of Smooth Talkers

THERE were indignant protests from Irish people in San Francisco, not long ago, when the City Health Officer took a "swab" from a lump of Blarney Stone and said it was not healthy for a lot of people to kiss it. Evidently he had not kissed it himself.

This piece of stone, weighing 15 pounds, had been brought by air from Ireland for a Roman Catholic festival.

The word blarney, meaning flattery and persuasive talk, comes from an ancient stone set high in the outer wall of Blarney Castle, near Cork. The legend says that whoever kisses it will

receive the gift of smooth-tongued eloquence.

Before the war Americans tried to buy the actual Blarney Stone, but failing, they bought a quarry near the castle and shipped rock from it to America. In 1938 ten tons was sent.

It is said that the word blarney came into the English language in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who directed that Cormat Dermott McCarthy, who then held Blarney Castle, was to hand it over to her Lord President of Ireland, Sir George Carew. But every time Sir George went to arrange the handing over, Mac "talked him out of it."

Poor Sir George became quite a laughing stock at the Court when he returned empty-handed, and when the Queen heard from him of McCarthy's promises and excuses, she exclaimed angrily: "This is more Blarney! What he says he never means!"

Perhaps it came to be believed that Mac's persuasive eloquence was due to the magic qualities of a stone in his Castle walls.

### Building by Touch

IN a recent competition for controlled-flight model aircraft the second place was won by Mr Robert Jones, of Brighton. But Mr Jones was unable to see his 90-mph plane, for he is blind!

To enable him to memorise the plans from which he builds his planes his wife and 17-year-old son stick pins into the outline, and Mr Jones gently moves his fingers along the pins.

So delicate in his sense of touch that once, when he was buying fine gauge wire, he told the salesman that one length was thicker than the others. When checked with a micrometer, that wire was found to be one-thousandth of an inch thicker than the rest!

### TESTIMONIAL

TEN tons of a fruit which has been cultivated in China for 2000 years arrived in Britain recently from Hong Kong. It is called the lychee, and its taste has been likened to that of a strawberry.

Lychees are slightly larger than grapes. The fruit which has just arrived is tinned in syrup. Chinese characters printed on the labels of the tins quote what a Chinese poet wrote in praise of the fruit about 1500 years ago.

His poem says he loves the tasty lychees, and would like to have been born in a province where the fruit grows.

## Training Our Athletes

GEOFFREY DYSON is busy preparing England's representatives for the forthcoming Empire Games in New Zealand, but he also finds time to give intensive coaching to up-and-coming young athletes, stars of the future, at Motspur Park, home of the London University sports clubs.

Prominent among these is John Savidge, former Royal Marine, who may yet become Britain's greatest weight-putter, for he is now regularly throwing distances of 50 feet. Another of Dyson's pupils is John Disley, a serving sergeant in the Army Educational Corps. He is a middle-distance runner, and he is at present being coached for the more strenuous steeplechase. A third pupil is G. M. Elliott, former

## SWEET IS THE BEET

ALL roads in East Anglia nowadays lead to the factories where beet from the fields in endless procession pours in at one end of a vast machine and comes out at the other in neat bags of sugar ready for the table. By next January eighteen factories will produce about 500,000 tons of sugar—enough to provide us with the present ration.

The conversion of beet into white sugar is one of the modern romances of British agriculture, and a mainstay of British farms in eastern England, where conditions for growing it are ideal. No longer are we dependent on overseas sugar cane.

No one would suspect that a sugar beet, which is not unlike a parsnip, contains so much sweetness. When the lorries arrive at the factory with the mountains of beet from the fields they are heavy with dirt which is removed by powerful jets of water. The beet are then floated down a water trough to the slicing machine to be chopped up ready for the vats.

### Cattle Food

Hot water is poured on the sliced beet, and the sugary syrup inside the beet begins to ooze out. The "brew" is then piped through to another vat with more sliced beet, and this process is repeated ten times until, at the end, the syrup emerges as a thin, pale liquid. The beet pulp left behind in the vats is valuable for cattle food, as good as oats but costing considerably less.

The syrup has to be purified with lime and sulphur, and then passed into evaporating vats, where the white crystals of sugar appear; these in turn are conveyed to the dryer and then to the belt which feeds them into the sugar bags.

One remarkable fact about this sugar manufacture is that from the moment the beet is lifted from the field it is never again touched by hand. The machinery operates for twenty-four hours daily, from November to January, and the whole process not only gives us our sugar, but saves valuable dollars and helps to keep British farming prosperous.



G. M. Elliott, Maureen Gardner, Geoffrey Dyson, Shirley Cawley, and John Savidge at Motspur Park

## The Editor's Table

### OUR FIRESIDE FRIENDS

PERHAPS the greatest redeeming feature of the long winter evenings is that they give us more time for reading; the fireside is the happiest rendezvous of a reader with his books.

It is true that the modern miracle of radio has brought such companionable delights as music and drama to the fireside; but the place of books there is still supreme, for while radio listening may widen our interests, reading makes the full man.

MR CHURCHILL was recently exhorting the younger generation to read great books at their leisure—he does not like the idea of studying Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton merely as tasks. But that kind of reading, Mr Churchill believes, is best done when we are old enough to appreciate the depth of the writer; it is a wise word both for young readers and their teachers.

Books help to build up the true wealth of a nation—character; and a reading people is likely to be an intelligent people. So let our firesides this winter, with all their friendly associations, be places of national well-being. A book by the fire is symbolic not only of personal contentment, but of a people who have found the key to true happiness.

### INESSENTIALS

IN appealing to every one to put the nation first, Mr Herbert Morrison recently drew attention to the vast sums of money still being spent on things that are not essential to a normally healthy life.

"In the £8000,000,000 spent on personal consumption last year," he said, "... only just over a quarter went on food, and not far short of a quarter went on alcoholic drinks, tobacco, cinema, racing, and other private fun and games, without counting the very large stake in gambling through football pools and in other ways.

"We must ask ourselves the question whether the present rate of spending, on what must be admitted to be comparative in-essentials, is really consistent with all the more important and more worthwhile things which the nation wants to have, or must have, in order to restore economic independence, and to safeguard everybody's job in the future."

### Acts of Kindness

THAT best portion of a good man's life, His little, nameless, unremembered acts Of kindness and of love.

Wordsworth

### PARTNERS WITH THE PEACE-LOVERS

THE visit of Pandit Nehru to America and Britain, where in London he described the event as "a kind of home-coming," is only one of the significant happenings which reveal how the people of Asia have taken a prominent place in the world of today. For India has been given a seat on the Security Council and Pakistan a seat on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Indonesia, too, has realised her ambition and has become independent of the Dutch.

Politically free from Europe, these Asiatic nations have now become real partners with all peace-loving nations in working for a better world.

### Prevention Better than Cure

THE success of modern doctors in preventing the outbreak or spread of disease was praised recently by Lord Woolton at the National Conference on Health Education.

"Probably at no time in the history of preventive medicine," he said, "has the future offered such glittering prizes in terms of human health and happiness to those who can see vital problems ahead."

The need, however, for constant vigilance on our part in fending the health of all of us is emphasised by another speaker who condemned cafés which keep pails of dirty water under the counter in which plates and cups are rinsed but never wiped before being used again.

There should be one standard of cleanliness alike for public places and homes—the best.

### OF SUCH IS HEAVEN

THE kingdom of heaven is of the childlike, of those who are easy to please, who love and who give pleasure.

R. L. Stevenson

### Under the E



PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If it is hard to part from an easy-going person,

HEALTHY children like to get up early. And get up to mischief.

A FISHERMAN caught sight of an old boot. Wouldn't have minded if it had been a sole.

SOME men making drain-pipes are working extra hours. They can't get through their work.

A SCHOOLBOY says there should be more half holidays. Others say "Not half."

SOME dentists are making a lot of money. Yet they still look down in the mouth.

A M. Ju



## The Clearer View

HISTORY has been defined as the actions of men and women; and so in the recently published volume of the Dictionary of National Biography, which includes the life-stories of 730 prominent men and women who died between 1931 and 1940, we find much of Britain's history in the Twentieth Century.

It may be that the verdict of a later age on the personalities whose biographies are given in this new volume may be a very different one from ours. As the years pass a clearer and more detached view can usually be taken of a historical personage than is possible for his contemporaries. Almost invariably certain reputations wither and die with the passage of time, while others gain fresh lustre.

Nowhere is the saying "You cannot see the wood for the trees" more true than in the art of biography.

## CUR NEW WORLD

"PEACE is not a coward's ideal. It requires more heroism than does war. It can attract young people, and it must lure them on to the great adventure of those who shape the future," said the Director-General of Unesco recently.

Whether we wish it or not, he said, the boys and girls of today are thrown into the maelstrom of international life. They must be shown that their very lives depend upon the lives of other peoples, that they are no longer members of one country only but of a world community.

"These are not doctrines imposed from above," he went on, "but questions which challenge prejudices, incite reflections on facts, and awaken the senses of the judgment to the realisation of a new world."

## JUST AN IDEA

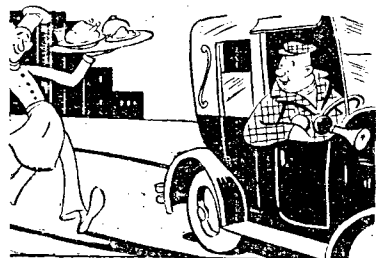
As Plato wrote, When men speak ill of thee, live so that nobody will believe them.

## Editor's Table

BEST yield of potatoes planted by Badshot Lea schoolchildren came from peelings with eyes. They looked the best.

A MANUFACTURER says he has something new in shoes. Can't be feet.

ONLY 20 of 23,000 records issued by a gramophone library have been broken by borrowers. Several have been cracked up.



AN says he is a taxi-driver, because must eat. He gets his fare.

## THINGS SAID

It is absurd to suppose that, without taking the trouble to learn foreign languages, we shall be able to contribute to the cultural unity of Europe.

Headmaster of Eton

INCREASINGLY today, people do not seem to be capable of knowing their own mind until a committee has sat upon it.

Archbishop of Canterbury

BECAUSE the modern aircraft is so complex, a period of six to eight years must elapse before a new type is ready for service.

Sir Frederick Handley Page

I DON'T know anywhere where there is a more complete absence of snobbery than the House of Lords.

Lord Addison

## HARD WINTER

NORWAY, which is kindly giving us a Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square again this year, also proposes to send snow to be laid on Hampstead Heath for a ski jump.

Surely any attempt to carry this idea into effect would be regarded by the English climate as a challenge. We fear that it would be a frost.

## To Thine Own Self Be True

My blessing with thee!

And these few precepts in thy memory  
See thou character. Give thy thoughts no tongue,  
Nor any unproportioned thought his act.

Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar.

Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,  
Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel,  
But do not dull thy palm with entertainment

Of each new-hatched, unfledged comrade. Beware

Of entrance to a quarrel, but, being in,

Bear 't that the opposed may beware of thee.

Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice:

Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment.

Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,

But not expressed in fancy; rich, not gaudy,

For the apparel oft proclaims the man.

Neither a borrower nor a lender be,

For loan oft loses both itself and friend,

And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.

This above all: to thine own self be true,

And it must follow, as the night the day,

Thou canst not then be false to any man.

Shakespeare

## LIVE AND LET LIVE

"If everybody minded their own business," the Duchess said in a hoarse growl, "the world would go round a great deal faster than it does."

Lewis Carroll

## JUNIOR RED CROSS IS 25

### How a Great Idea Began

NEXT Saturday young people from all parts of Britain are taking part in a great pageant at the Royal Albert Hall, London, to celebrate the 25th birthday of the British Junior Red Cross.

The Pageant is called The Proudest Badge, and its cast of over 750 performers will illustrate, among other spectacles, the dramatic story of the founding of the Red Cross Movement by a rich man who unexpectedly got himself mixed up in a battle.

The rich man was a Swiss banker, Henri Dunant, of Geneva,



Memorial to Henri Dunant at Zurich in Switzerland

who in 1859 planned a quiet holiday in the Lake Garda region of northern Italy, not thinking that the war between Austrians on the one side and French and Italians on the other would interfere, for in those days wars did not spread devastation on the wide scale they do now.

Nevertheless, they could be as destructive of life for the soldiers engaged in them, and at Solferino, near where Henri Dunant was staying, two big armies clashed, and 300,000 men maimed and killed one another.

To Henri Dunant it mattered little that the Austrians were defeated; his was the spirit, like Florence Nightingale's, that rises above taking sides in a killing match and is moved always by human suffering. When the fighting was over he was horrified to find how little was being done for the wounded men. There was no thought of holiday for him now, and for several days he worked ceaselessly to help his suffering fellow-men.

### A Plea For Humanity

Afterwards he wrote an eloquent and moving book about it called A Souvenir of Solferino which touched the conscience of the world and led directly to the Geneva Convention with its rules for the more humane conduct of war.

Under this Convention the International Red Cross Society was founded with its headquarters at Geneva, and with its world-famous emblem, a red cross on a white ground—the Swiss flag with its colours reversed.

At the Albert Hall pageant the young Red Cross people, with grown-ups, will present many other colourful scenes illustrating what the Proudest Badge has meant to the world. Scenes will recall the work of the Red Cross in the First World War, the years between, the Second World War, and its work today.

## A New Era For Somaliland

ITALY is to administer her former colony of Somaliland as a trustee under the United Nations. When deciding this the other day the political committee of Uno appointed Colombia, Egypt, and the Philippines as an advisory council, and proposed that the country should become independent in ten years.

Stretching from the tip of the "African Horn" for about 1200 miles along Africa's eastern coast, Italian Somaliland occupies some 220,000 square miles—twice the area of Great Britain. Its immediate neighbours are British Somaliland, Abyssinia, and Kenya. On the east coast stands the capital, Mogadishu, a fine city of modern buildings.

Italian Somaliland has been aptly described as "a land of heat and far horizons." It is a dry, torrid country, comprising mainly vast expanses of rocky desert stretching from inland plateau to beach.

In this desert land live the Somalis, who are mostly Moslems of Hamitic stock intermingled with Negro and Arab strains. Those who are nomadic by character lead a primitive life in which rain plays a vital part. They literally "follow the rains," for they know that there will then be at least some grass on which to graze their cattle, sheep, goats, and camels. Their homes are desert tents, their food meat and milk, with occasional luxuries picked up in the towns and villages near which their travels take them.

Those Somalis who lead a settled life dwell in simple, thatched-hut communities around the water holes and near the banks of the rare rivers. They grow crops such as grains, cotton, sugar-cane, and dates. Native trade is small, restricted to

aromatic gums, sheepskins, and mother-of-pearl.

The European nations began to take notice of this semi-barren land only towards the end of the 19th century, when Italy started to occupy parts of the coast to add to her Imperial Empire. Later she added to these, and was granted the region around the Juba River, until then a part of Kenya, as recognition of her part in the First World War.

### Sugar and Bananas

During the years of Italian occupation numerous development programmes were embarked upon, including road-building and irrigation schemes in the cultivated regions of Shebelle and Juba in south Somaliland. Cotton, sugar-cane, and bananas were cultivated and exported to protected Italian markets, while industries such as leather-making, salt production, and fish-canning were developed on modern lines.

Then came the unhappy Italian invasion and conquest of Abyssinia, to be followed by the Second World War in which Italy lost the right to possess any colonies.

Since February 1941, when British Imperial forces captured Mogadishu, Somaliland has been under British administration. It is to be hoped that the promise of future independence which Italy has agreed to work for will allay any fears that may still exist in the patriotic Somali Youth League.

## Worsted Cloth For the President

THE CN recently told how the schoolchildren of Worstead, in Norfolk, have been learning to weave on a modern hand loom the worsted cloth which made their village famous six centuries ago.

The first piece of worsted cloth has now come off the loom, and the 43 children of the village school have sent it to President Truman together with this letter:

"We, the children of Worstead, in Norfolk, England, where worsted cloth was first spun and

woven hundreds of years ago, are proud and privileged to send to you this length of worsted cloth.

"We send it you, and hope you will accept it as a personal gift from the original makers of worsted to the country which uses more worsted cloth than any other country in the world. We hope, too, that you will see in this gift a symbol of the big and increasing part which the wool textile industry is playing in our economic recovery."



THIS ENGLAND

The main street and church in the Sussex town of Midhurst



## CLAY IN THE COALPIT

BRITAIN'S mining engineers recently succeeded in saving millions of tons of coal by dealing with a situation which had its origin in the Ice Age.

Thousands of tons of wet clay had been seeping through into the workings of Brancepeth Colliery in County Durham, and 400 men had to be withdrawn, with a resulting loss of 700 tons of coal a day.

Coal Board engineers found that the cause of the trouble was a cavity in the centre of a thick fir plantation where the running clay was forcing its way into the pit. The clay is thought to be a deposit formed during the Ice Age when the earth's surface was blanketed by glaciers and boulder clay. Deep channels were sometimes formed when the glaciers melted and heavy deposits of this clay were left at the bottom.

The engineers at Brancepeth decided to force hundreds of tons of cement into the cavity. Pipes were driven through and the cement mixed with the gravel has blocked the hole in the roof and dammed the inrush.

The experiment was costly but completely successful, and the 400 men who had been temporarily transferred to other parts of the pit are now back in their normal working places.

## Mighty Atom and Mighty Mountain

RUSSIAN engineers have used atomic explosives to blast an opening through the Ural mountains for two rivers, according to Nacht Express, a newspaper published in the Russian-occupied part of Berlin.

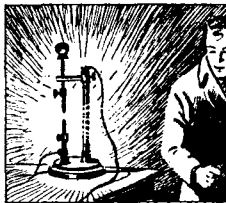
The newspaper says that the Soviet authorities wished to change the direction of two Siberian rivers to irrigate a desert region as big as France, so they used atomic energy to make a hole through the mountains. The desert area, says Nacht Express, will be changed into blooming gardens by the rivers' diversion.



Early in life Sir Humphry Davy showed his powers of invention. At school in Penzance he was an adept at making fireworks, his speciality being a 'thunder-powder' guaranteed to make a terrific explosion, to the delight of his chums.

## Pioneers 16. SIR HUMPHRY DAVY of the miner's safety lamp

When he left school he had a little laboratory in a friend's attic where he experimented. Later, sniffing a gas, he began to laugh until he fell unconscious. They pinched him but he never felt any pain. What a discovery for use in surgery!



Then, as Davy grew older he turned to electricity and discovered the most powerful artificial light the world had known—the electric arc lamp. He joined two pieces of carbon which were attached to the poles of a powerful battery and produced a flame four inches long.



But Sir Humphry's best-known invention is one of the faintest lights in use—the coal miner's safety lamp. Before electric hand-lamps came into use, it saved the lives of thousands of men who worked where dangerous gas is formed.

## STEEL IN A VACUUM

THE time-honoured method of making mainsprings and hairsprings for watches and clocks, and other springs, too, is going into eclipse. At various factories the operations necessary are now carried out under vacuum, so that all air is excluded.

At the high temperatures of quenching and annealing when the normal method is used, the oxygen of the air combines with the steel springs. This is known as oxidation, and produces various colours from light straw, through dark straw to light blue and dark blue, depending on the temperature.

'When done under vacuum no such colours appear, the springs emerging bright. This means that the steel is actually stronger, because there is no oxidation of its molecules; moreover, no finishing is required.'

In fabricating jet engine parts, too, the vacuum method is used. Parts for jet engines must stand up to a strain unknown to older engines, and if they were made in an ordinary foundry by a blacksmith they would not be strong enough. In this, as in many other things, 'only the best is good enough.'

## Norsemen of New Zealand

THE prosperous little town of Norsewood in New Zealand has been celebrating its 75th birthday. Its first settlers in 1875 were a band of Norwegians who made their homes on sections of 40 acres of dense native forest.

These Norsemen were part of a group of 475 people who sailed in 1872 from Christiania, now known as Oslo, at the invitation of the New Zealand Government, then eagerly seeking new settlers from Europe.

It is related that Norsewood's first schoolmaster had to learn Norwegian before he could teach his pupils English!

## A Name For Ever Honoured in Natal

IN the story of the long struggle that took place in Natal between the Voortrekkers and Dingaan, King of the Zulus, figure the names of many brave Englishmen, and the noblest of these were Robert Alexander Biggar and his two sons, to whose memory the people of Natal are to erect a statue.

Robert Alexander Biggar was one of the 1820 settlers who made their homes in the Eastern Province of the Cape and fell in love with South Africa. Having heard of the beauty and richness of the great land of Natal beyond the Drakensberg Mountains, he abandoned his farm at Albany and set out for Port Natal with his wife and two sons, Robert and George. That was in 1834, when only a handful of Englishmen lived where Durban now stands; trading in ivory.

Some miles to the north, across the great Tugela River, lived King Dingaan. He claimed authority over all Natal and Biggar thought it wise to pay his respects in person to the Zulu monarch.

Biggar was impressed by the royal city of Oemkoengenhdlou, with its great population—some twenty thousand—herding cattle, tilling the soil, and practising the arts of war. But he distrusted Dingaan—with good reason.

The Zulu King started a war of extermination against neighbouring tribes, and when the Voortrekker Piet Retief reached Natal to parley with Dingaan, Biggar was full of warnings. But Retief went on with his plan; in the following week he and 70 of his men were massacred by the Zulus at a great reception in the royal kraal given in their honour.

### Ambushed

Robert Biggar now decided to throw in his lot with the Voortrekkers against the Zulu despot. Terror reigned from the foothills of the Drakensberg to the Atlantic seaboard as armies of Zulus fanned out to destroy every European in the colony. Biggar sent his son George with a commando troop to the Tugela to warn the women and children camping there. Alas, the troop fell into an ambush, and George Biggar died bravely.

Undaunted, Robert Biggar organised a second expedition under his other son Robert. This little Commando was trapped by the Zulus on the morning of April 17, 1838, and a desperate battle followed. It has been graphically described by the historian, Dr Theal.

'Three times in succession the Natal army beat back the regiments that charged furiously

upon it. Then strong Zulu reinforcements cut the Natalians in two, and all hope of successful resistance was over. But no lion at bay ever created such havoc among hounds that worried him as this little band of survivors caused among the warriors of Dingaan before it perished. The young Zulu regiments were selected to charge, while the veterans of Dingaan watched their prowess from a neighbouring hill. Whole masses of black soldiers went down before the withering fire, but they charged and charged again. At last a rush of reserves carried everything before it, and the stubborn fight was over. A thousand Natal blacks had perished, three times that number of Zulus. Thirteen Englishmen lay dead upon the field, and the noblest of these was Robert Biggar.'

The elder Biggar now raised a third army and marched with Andries Pretorius to meet Dingaan face to face at Oemkoengenhdlou. They met a vast Zulu army, ten thousand strong, at Blood River, and there, on December 16, 1838, the power of the Black Napoleon was broken for ever. But eleven days later, Robert Alexander Biggar was also slain, the last of a gallant trio whose name will ever be an honoured one in South Africa.

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS—A New Picture-Version of the Famous Novel by Charles Dickens

Pip was horrified and bewildered to find that his unknown benefactor was not Miss Havisham but the convict, Abel Magwitch. His dreams of marrying Estella were shattered, for what would she think if she knew he was the

adopted son of a convict? In Australia Abel had been allowed to farm and trade—though still officially a convict—and had made a fortune. He had sent money for Pip to Jaggers, the lawyer who had defended him at his trial,

instructing Jaggers not to tell Pip whence it came; and Abel had also brought a lot of money with him to England. But, he now revealed, he was still under a life sentence, and would be hanged if discovered back in England.



Pip persuaded Abel to go to bed in Herbert's room. Dreading that spies might be watching the house, Pip turned out the lights and sat down, too stunned to think. Then, wanting a light, he went out intending to go to the watchman's lodge. On the staircase he fell over a man crouching there, who ran off. In great anxiety Pip, next day, found new lodgings for Abel. When Herbert returned, Pip told him everything.



Abel told the two friends his life story. His first memory was stealing turnips because he was hungry. 'I was took up and took up; I reg'larly growed up took up,' he said. No one ever helped him or taught him anything good. Tramping, begging, thieving, working if he got a chance, he grew to manhood. Then he was introduced to a smooth, well-educated criminal named Compeyson.



This villain got Abel under his thumb, making him get change for stolen bank-notes. When they were caught and tried, Compeyson put the blame on Abel and got off with a lighter sentence. This was the man with whom Pip, as a little boy, had seen Abel fighting in the marshes. From Abel's account Pip and Herbert realised that Compeyson was also the man who had jilted Miss Havisham.



Compeyson was still alive. Pip and Herbert were sure he must be anxious to get rid of his enemy, Abel, and would tell the authorities if he knew he was in England. The two decided they must smuggle Abel out of the country and Pip must go with him. A few evenings later, as Pip was returning to his rooms, the night porter outside gave him a note. It was from Wemmick, Jaggers' clerk, and said, 'Don't go home.'

What mysterious business is going on at Pip's place? See next week's instalment



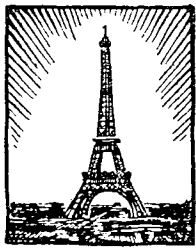
The Children's Newspaper, November 26, 1949

**JANE & DAVID ON TOUR WITH THE OPERA**

New Series of Complete Short Stories

by **GEOFFREY TREASE**

This Week—

**First Night in Paris**

"I CAN hardly believe it's true, even now," said Jane softly. "That we're here in Paris, I mean."

David laughed. "Well, there it is—in black and white."

He pointed to the bills outside the theatre. They were headed: *OPERA ANGLAIS*. Below came the familiar names—David's parents, Owen Williams and Olwen Evans, among the leading singers; Jane's father, Ronald Murray, as the principal conductor.

Together the children spelt out the French.

"Commencing their European tour... opening with an entirely new British opera, *The White Hart*..."

As they stood there on the pavement, well wrapped up against the crisp winter air, a youth in white overalls came along whistling and pasted a strip across each poster: **TONIGHT..**

"Tonight!" Jane murmured. "First show of the tour, first night of the new opera... Isn't it exciting?"

"Mum's as nervous as a cat," David confessed. "Always is, when she's singing a new part."

"She'll be good, though."

"She'd better be!" said her proud son grimly. "Some of these foreigners think the British aren't musical. We've got to show 'em."

"I can't wait till tonight," Jane moaned. "What can we do, David?"

"Well..." He grinned, looking across the square with its haze of late autumn sunshine. "We promised to keep out of mischief..."

"Of course! Or we'd never have been allowed to come on the tour."

"And we've got to keep out of the way. They're all up to their necks, what with last-minute rehearsals and hair-do's and press-men. Mum said we were to report to her dressing-room without fail before the show starts—she wants to know we're all right before she goes on—"

"And we must be there to wish her luck!"

"That gives us hours and hours."

"We can't just sit in the hotel twiddling our thumbs—"

"Course not! We're here to see Paris and improve our education." David grinned broadly as he pulled out a street-plan. "Come on—we can't possibly get lost with this."

THEY had a wonderful day.

They walked miles along the straight boulevards which faded into grey mist. They sauntered along the banks of the Seine, watching hopeful fishermen who never seemed to catch anything. They leant on the parapet and watched motor-driven barges which had come all the way up-river from Rouen. Some were even flying the Belgian flag. Most of all they liked watching

the steamers tilt back their funnels so that they could slip beneath the bridges.

"How are your poor feet?" David asked with a laugh.

Jane made a face. "I wouldn't mind a bus—only we don't want to get lost."

"We can't get lost if we remember the number of the bus. We've only to catch the same back the other way."

All Paris was so fresh and fascinating that it did not matter much which way they went. They found a bus-stop where several other people were standing. There seemed to be no queue. People just clustered on the kerb, both sides of the lamp-post.

"I suppose their buses aren't so crowded as ours," Jane suggested.

She changed her mind when a bus drew up and there was a mad rush to get on. The children were brushed aside; they never had the slightest chance. The bus roared away with the last lucky passengers clinging on like a bunch of human bananas.

"Never mind," said David. "We're first here for the next one."

But, as there was no proper queue, much the same thing happened again. David and Jane battled with more determination that time, but the conductor fended them off, though he took aboard people who had arrived at the bus-stop only a minute or two before.

"I'm not going to be beaten," Jane vowed, setting her small chin stubbornly. "What's French for 'We were here first'?"

WHEN the third bus drew up they charged into action chanting a shrill war-cry: "*Nous sommes arrivés ici les premiers!*"—a statement which did not seem to impress either the crowd or the conductor very much. Once more they were beaten off and left glowering on the pavement.

"Hateful people!" Jane stormed.

### LAST WEEK of the CN £750 School Quiz

With the Closing Date for the CN School Quiz rapidly approaching, pupils and schools who have not yet completed their entries should do so without delay.

There is no entry fee in this great competition, but when returned to us every completed form must have affixed to it a Token from CN. This week's Token is at the foot of the back page of this issue.

The Group 1 test Entry Form is printed in Blue, while that for Group 2 is in Black. Each pupil's entry will be judged as his or her own individual effort, but must be submitted as part of the school's total entry.

Remember, the Closing Date is:  
**DECEMBER 1**

"It's an anti-British plot," growled David.

A French lady who had also failed to get on smiled at them, holding up a small ticket in her gloved hand, and spoke to them in broken English.

"See, my children, it is necessary to draw one of these tickets from the box on the lamp-post. Each has a number. Then the conductor knows who has been waiting the most long time."

"Oh, thanks ever so much," said David, feeling rather foolish. And they boarded the next bus without any difficulty.

DARKNESS had fallen. The boulevards were ablaze with light not only from gay shop-windows but from the glass-screened pavement cafés. Traffic twinkled across the Seine bridges. Electric trains, like golden snakes, whisked in and out of sight across the dark water.

They had meant to go back to the hotel for a good dinner before the performance, but things turned out otherwise.

They had met two English girl students in one of the cafés, bright, self-confident creatures of nineteen, who seemed ages older to Jane and David. They came to the rescue when David had trouble giving the order.

"You won't get your lemonade and cakes if you say '*merci*' to everything the waiter suggests," laughed the tall, dark one. "*Merçi*' means 'No, thank you,' not just 'thank you.'"

The students were quite impressed when they heard of the children's connection with the opera company and were less inclined to treat them as mere "school-kids on holiday." They insisted on taking them to a special little restaurant for dinner.

"You'll get to the theatre in bags of time," the fair girl assured them airily as she paid the bill. "Just take the Metro—don't forget to change where I told you—and you'll come out in the square in front of the theatre."

JANE and David were so flattered to have been accepted practically as grown-ups and experienced foreign travellers that they did not like to say they would have preferred a bus instead of the unknown perils of the Paris Underground. They thanked their hostesses politely and, conscious that they were still being watched from across the road, walked boldly into the station.

They found it was very different from the London Underground. David went to the ticket-window and asked for two to the Place Flaubert. The clerk peered at him and grunted a question. David repeated his request, and the clerk repeated his grunt.

"He says, 'what class,'" Jane interrupted helpfully.

David went pink. "Oh, third," he said from habit. "I mean, *troisième, s'il vous plait.*"

The clerk looked at him pityingly and slapped down two second-class tickets. Later they learnt that the Metro had first and second class, but no third. Otherwise the fares were the same for any length of journey, so there was no need to mention where they were going.

THERE were neither lifts nor moving staircases, for the line ran only a few feet below the level of the pavement. They heard a train pull in, and dashed down the stairs—to come face to

Continued on page 10

**SAMMY SHUTEYE AND THE THRILLING FINISH**

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SO SAVED IN FIFTEEN MINUTES. HOW AM I DOING, M<sup>r</sup> JUDGE?

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**WINDSOR STAMP CO. (Dept. CN), UCKFIELD, SUSSEX**

## FIRST NIGHT IN PARIS

Continued from page 9

face with a barrier which suddenly slid across the platform entrance. They had to stand there, wild with indignation, peering through at the train. Only when it had left were they allowed to pass through on to the platform.

"This is daft!" fumed David.

"There's no sense," Jane agreed. "When the train's there you can't get at it, but when it's gone—"

"They let you through! Fat lot of use that is."

They got on the next train, however, and then they saw that the platform barrier was a safety device. The train paused only for a moment, and there was a panic rush. The sliding doors came together with a snap, without that slight hesitation which gives the Londoner a chance to get right in or right out.

The train was crowded, the stations flashed by with bewildering speed. Soon, to their horror, they realised that they had passed the one where they should have changed. They battled their way out at the next stop and caught what they supposed was a train travelling in the opposite direction. In a few moments it became horribly clear that they had switched to a different line entirely and were being carried at breakneck speed to the unknown suburbs.

DAVID looked at his watch and gasped. Only 20 minutes before Jane's father would walk to his place and conduct the overture! His own mother would be worried to death, imagining accidents of every kind... And it wasn't just her he must think of, it was the bad effect on her performance!

Jane was looking pale. She could see them hurtling backwards and forwards under Paris,

from one terminus to another, unable to escape from this terrifying maze of the Metro. Why wasn't it clear, like London?

The train pulled up. David grabbed her arm. "Come on," he said between his teeth.

They came up in a completely unfamiliar part of Paris. "Never mind the street plan," she panted. "Whatever it costs we must have a taxi!"

All Paris taxis seemed to move as if jet-propelled. A nerve-racking, mercifully short journey landed them at the theatre just as Mr Murray was straightening his white tie before walking into the orchestra-pit.

"Hallo!" he said. "We were getting worried—afraid you'd got lost."

"Oh, Dad," Jane said scornfully, "what do you take us for?"

Another grand adventure of Jane and David next week. Order your C.N. now.

### For a Good Cause

It is an excellent idea to send Christmas cards that support and advertise a good cause.

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) offers everyone a chance to buy a set of delightful Christmas cards designed by Fougasse, including the one which symbolises the Nativity by portraying a donkey outlined in the radiance from the stable door in Bethlehem. The cards are sold in packets of five for 2s. 6d.

UFAW is also selling coils of gummed strip paper, with Fougasse designs, which are useful for fastening Christmas and birthday parcels. Each coil contains 250 feet of strip for 2s. 6d. and, like the cards, can be obtained from UFAW, 284 Regent's Park Rd, Finchley, N.3.

### BEDTIME CORNER

#### Mr Portly's New Friend

Now the colder weather had come, on Saturday afternoons Mummie took Ann and Christopher for a good sharp walk with her and baby Colin. This meant that the two of them could no longer play with Mr Portly as they usually did, and he was rather fed-up.

What made it worse was that Tinkle was away again, so he had no one to go adventuring with.

After several dreary Saturday-afternoons like this Mr Portly determined to find someone else to come out with him. He visited Tiger's house first.

"What!" yawned Tiger. "Come out adventuring at this time of day? Not likely!" And he dozed off again.

Next Mr Portly went to see Chokko, the Siamese cat.

"Kom wiz you? For what?" he asked, squinting at Mr Portly. "For food, yes. To play, no." And he, too, dozed off again.

So then Mr Portly went on

till he came to the garden of a new house. Crouched on the lawn was a small, dirty white kitten with blue eyes.

"He's too young to be any fun," thought Mr Portly. But just then the kitten began to 'cry'; so he jumped down to see what was wrong.

"Everybody's out; and I'm hungry and cold, and I can't get my coat clean," wailed the kitten, whose name was Snowdrop.

"I'll soon give you a good wash," said Mr Portly kindly. "Then we'll see about food, and getting warm."

Then, as he licked away and Snowdrop purred happily, Mr Portly suddenly thought what fun it

would be to look after Snowdrop as the children did baby Colin.

So he took him back home for a meal and a warm. And now, when the children take Colin out, Mr Portly takes Snowdrop out, after a good wash, and teaches him all that a cat should know.

JANE THORNICROFT

## STAMP MAP

Here is a new and exciting way of collecting stamps—and a wonderful Christmas present. A beautifully printed four-colour map of the world measuring 21½ x 33½ inches—almost arm's length—with 170 full-size illustrations of stamps from every country in the world. Actual stamps can be mounted over the illustrations to make a colourful display. In addition to illustrations, there are details about stamps and postal history and a printed list describing each stamp.

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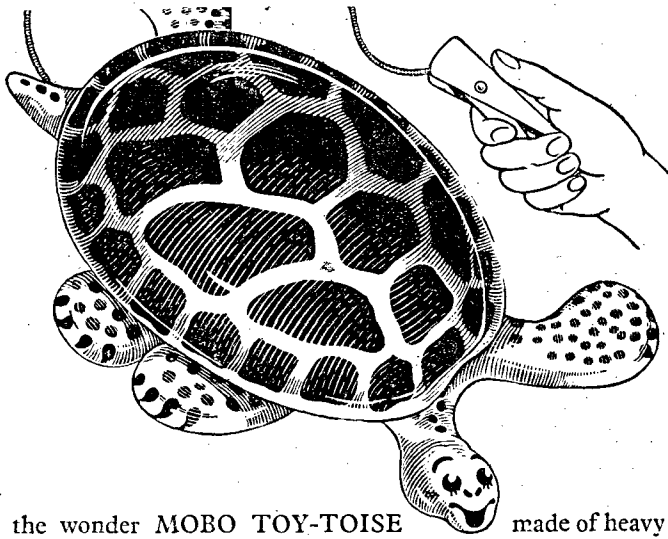
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### Life in the Jungle

*Tiger, Tiger!* by Patricia Case (Macmillan, 6s).

THIS is a remarkable book, not only for its subject—Kash-mar, a tiger cub and his exciting adventures with his parents until he is old enough to fend for himself—but because the author is a 16-year-old who can write with vigour and charm and inspire readers with her own appreciation of the life of wild animals.

### Sharp as Needles

*The Two Pins*, by C. B. Poultney (Hollis & Carter, 8s 6d).

THE sleepy village of Little-under-Less awoke with a start when the twins Paul and Penelope paid a visit. These Two Pins are involved in many scrapes, but the final escapade proves that they are certainly not Safety Pins.

### The Care of Pets

*Every Child's Book of Pets*, by J. Bentley Aistrop (Dennis Dobson, 8s 6d).

THE author deals with many pets, from the familiar dogs and cats to stick insects and exotic fish; and he tells readers how to choose them and how to keep them in good health. While it is written primarily for children, parents will find this a useful book to have handy.

### Happy Return

*Dr Dolittle and the Secret Lake*, by Hugh Lofting (Jonathan Cape, 9s).

IN this new book, delightfully illustrated by the author, John Dolittle and all his merry company are transported to darkest Darkest Africa, and there have lively and incredible adventures.

### Young Crusoes

*Marooned in Du-Bu Cove*, by Evelyn Cheesman (G. Bell, 8s 6d).

THIS is a fine story of New Guinea. The adventure starts with a game of Let's Pretend to be Shipwrecked on a Desert Island; and develops in real earnest when the canoe carrying the 12-year-old twins, their sister Nixie, their grown-up friend Boom, and little dog Socks is caught in a tropical storm.

### Kid Sister

*Penny Dreadful*, by A. Stephen Tring (Oxford University Press, 6s).

FIZZY ANDREWS, growing up and starting her first job, has a schoolgirl sister, Penny, seven years younger and with a weakness for ice creams and ponies. In the end Penny shows that a younger sister is not always a liability.

### Other Books Received

*BRITISH Railways for Boys*, by Cecil J. Allen (English Universities Press, 5s).

*Columbus Sails*, written and illustrated by C. Walter Hodges (G. Bell, 9s).

*Roving with Nomad*, by Norman Ellison and illustrated by C. F. Tunnicliffe (University of London Press, 7s 6d).

*Adventure and Discovery for Boys and Girls—4* (Jonathan Cape, 12s 6d).

*Going to the Theatre*, by John Allen (Phoenix House, 7s 6d).

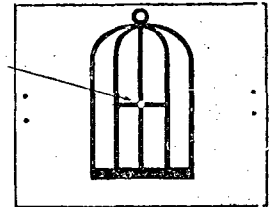
*White Winter*, by Eleanor Helme and illustrated by Lionel Edwards (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 9s).

### TRICK TIME for Rowntree's Gumsters

## How to put the Bird in the Cage

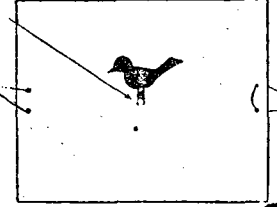
Hand a Gumster a small piece of cardboard with a cage drawn on one side and a blackbird on the other. Tell him to put the bird in the cage. He'll say you're crackers, that it can't be done. But it can—and this is how to prepare the trick.

1. On one side of the piece of white cardboard draw a large cage, as shown in the illustration. Pierce the perch—PINHOLE in the centre with a pin-hole.

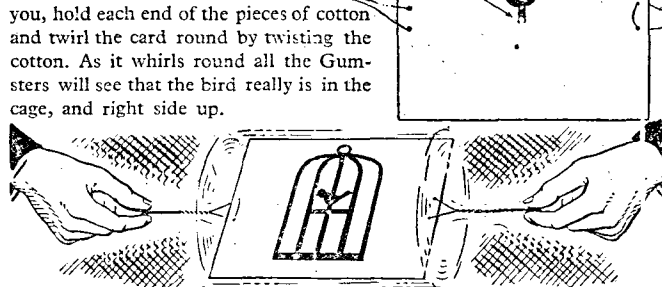


2. Turn the card over towards you and draw a blackbird in the middle with its feet dead on the pin-hole. (This makes the bird upside down in relation to the cage.)

3. To each side of the card tie a piece of cotton or thin string. See the illustration.



When the unsuccessful Gumster hands the card back to you, hold each end of the pieces of cotton and twirl the card round by twisting the cotton. As it whirls round all the Gumsters will see that the bird really is in the cage, and right side up.



Tally Ho! The hunt for tubes of Rowntree's Fruit Gums is on! And who wouldn't hunt for the longest lasting 2 1/2 d. worth you can get on one personal point.



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If you are 16 or under, here is a chance to win one of these 20 brand new bicycles—delivered to the lucky winners early in the New Year.

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#### HOW TO ENTER

Ask mother to buy a bottle of any of the following DAWS products: Ginger Wine (Non-Alcoholic), Cordials, Winter Wines or Squashes—and ask the grocer for an Entry Form. If he is temporarily out of stock of forms you can obtain one by sending a postcard to "DAWS," Dept. No 14, 135/137 Fulham

Palace Road, London, W.6, giving your name and address and the name of the shop where you purchased the bottle of DAWS. The Entry Forms are FREE. On them is the picture you have to colour. All you have to do is colour the picture and send it in before December 31, 1949. The lucky winners' names will be announced in the National press.

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## THE BRAN TUB

### NOT AGAIN

"Why did you laugh so heartily at that old story George was telling?"

"In self-defence."

"Self-defence?"

"Yes, if I hadn't laughed he would have repeated it, thinking I hadn't seen the point."

### Knowing and Knowing Not

*There is much wisdom in this excerpt from an old book; but happily for the fools, they are suffered more gladly now than when it was written.*

He who knows not, and knows not that he knows not, is a fool; beat him.

He who knows not, and knows that he knows not, is ignorant; teach him.

He who knows, and knows not that he knows, is asleep; wake him.

He who knows, and knows that he knows, is a wise man; follow him.

### RODDY



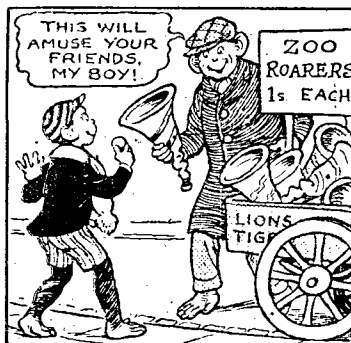
"Is this the bag which Mummie says you are always letting the cat out of, Auntie?"

### It Usually Is

They were talking about the weather and Harry summed up the position.

"It strikes me that the usual unusual weather has been more unusual than usual this year," he said.

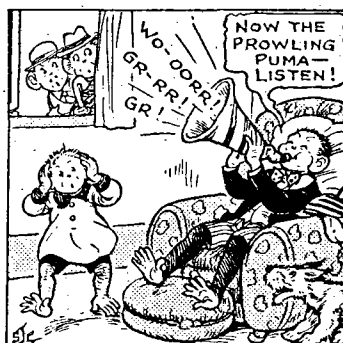
## Jacko Was a Roaring Success



"Bring the Zoo into your own home," cried the street salesman.



Adolphus and Father Jacko thought this really must have happened.



But imagine their surprise—and relief—when they learned the truth.

### COULD BE WORSE

"Bossy, I am surprised. This note from your teacher says that you are the bottom boy in a class of 25."

"Well, it might be worse."

"I don't see how."

"It might have been a bigger class."

### Rough Stuff

A RUGGED old sailor named Huff, Once swallowed a packet of snuff. The sneeze which he gave Raised a huge tidal wave, And for three days the sea was quite rough.

### IN SECRET

"I'll tell you a secret," said five-year-old Billy to his little sister.

"What's a secret?"

"It's something that somebody tells everybody else in a whisper," said Billy.

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Fallow Deer and Red Deer. As the children drew closer, the deer cantered off into the woods.

"The leader was a big chap," said Don. "Almost big enough for a red deer."

"Perhaps it was," replied his sister Ann.

"No! It was a fallow deer. His antlers were palmated; that is, flattened at the ends. A red deer's are round and pointed."

"What do deer eat in the winter, when there are no leaves and little grass?" queried Ann.

"Acorns, beech-mast, fungi, and bark from trees chiefly," said Farmer Gray, overhearing Ann's question. "Many of the semi-wild deer are given hay and corn."

### Riddle-My-Name

My first's in side, but not in end;

My next in break, but not in bend;

My third's in ocean, not in sea;

My fourth's in dinner, not in tea;

My fifth is found in prose and rhyme;

My sixth in sage, but not in thyme.

Together they're put and then I shall be:

In tatters and rags, I think you'll agree.

Answer next week

### THE SIZE OF YOUR HAT

Do you always remember the size of your hat when you are buying a new one? Here is a simple method of finding it if you should forget.

Measure the inside length from front to back of the hat you are wearing, then measure the inside width, and add the two measurements.

Say the length is seven inches and the width is five and three-quarter inches. Added together, these make twelve and three-quarter inches. Now divide by two, and you have six and three-eighths, the size of hat that you require.

### Light Lunch

SAID a hardy old fellow named Heathers, "Though I'm out in all manner of weathers, I keep warm and dry, By consuming a pie, Made of glow-worms and elephants' feathers."

### Budding Artist

A YOUNG artist was bragging of his skill.

"Ah," said the man to whom he was talking, "I also was a good artist as a child. Once I drew a small cartload of turnips over a bridge. The people of the village noticed me so I drew their attention."

The booster retired defeated.

### THREE ELEVENS MAKE TWENTY-ONE

At Tim's school it is the custom to take a combined photograph each year of the Cricket, Football, and Hockey XIs. When these heroes were recently assembled they numbered 21. Only one boy, Carruthers, belonged to all three XIs, and nobody else in the Football XI played cricket for the school.

Apart from Carruthers, if three of the cricketers were hockey-players, how many of the hockey-players were footballers?

Answer next week

### PERCHANCE TO DREAM

"What would you do if you woke up to find that you had inherited a million pounds?"

"I'd turn over and try to dream it again."

### An Odd Riddle

When is a kitten—you will not know that—

Bigger, much bigger than any large cat?

Curious kitten—

When it is written!

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

William the Conqueror

King

Bill had 59 conkers

Enigma

Again (a gain)

Riddle-my-Name

Henry (Harry)

FOG	BARGE
AXE	EEL
DAM	ABATE
FENDER	C
GT	ON
ST	PUDDLE
ALONE	OWL
SEE	NOD
O	PATTY
EGG	

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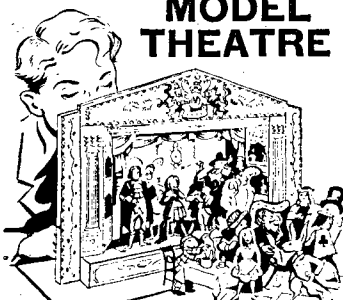
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